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ABSTRACT

This handbook identifies the essential steps and pitfalls to successful partnerships between schools and their broader communities, and describes approximately 500 examples of ongoing collaborative efforts throughout the country, but primarily in New Jersey. The greatest impediments to forming partnerships appear to be the negative attitudes of school administrators, teachers, and the business and voluntary community, who are overly concerned with problems of "turf," fear of change, or loss of control. The following tips for successful partnerships are presented: (1) aim for a long-term relationship; (2) get top-level commitment; (3) involve a broad spectrum of the community; (4) provide adequate time for planning; (5) agree upon overall goals; (6) conduct a needs and resource inventory of the schools and the community; (7) agree upon specific projects related to the needs of the school; (8) put goals and objectives, projects, and timelines in writing; (9) appoint a coordinator; (10) raise funds; (11) evaluate periodically; and (12) publicize. Examples of the following kinds of partnerships are described: (1) the business community; (2) colleges and universities; (3) cultural institutions; (4) labor unions; (5) the legal system; (6) local government; (7) the media; (8) parents; (9) religious organizations; (10) social service organizations; and (11) volunteers and voluntary organizations. Each chapter includes a list of references and resources. Examples of training materials and partnership agreements are appended. (FMW)

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